

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image processing apparatus comprising:  
input means for inputting a data train including  
moving image data composed of a plurality of frames;  
5        designating means for designating an arbitrary  
frame among said moving image data;  
          definition detecting means for detecting  
definitions of a plurality of frames in said moving  
image data;  
10      similarity range detecting means for detecting  
from among said moving image data a range of successive  
frames indicating an image similar to that of the frame  
designated by said designating means; and  
          selecting means for selecting one frame from the  
15      moving image data inputted by said input means based on  
an output of said definition detecting means and an  
output of said similarity range detecting means.
  
2. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein  
20      said selecting means selects the most definitional  
frame from a plurality of frames within said similarity  
range.
  
3. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein  
25      said definition detecting means detects the definition  
by using said moving image data.

4. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein  
said data train includes additional information  
indicating the definitions of said plurality of frames,  
and said definition detecting means detects the  
5 definition based on the additional information in the  
data train which is inputted by said input means.

5. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein  
10 said similarity range detecting means detects  
the similarity range by using the moving image data.

6. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the  
data train includes additional information indicating  
scene change of said moving image data, and said  
15 similarity range detecting means detects the similarity  
range based on the additional information.

7. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein  
said similarity range detecting means compares the  
20 image data of said designated frame with the image data  
of the plurality of frames in said moving image data,  
and detects the similarity range based on the  
comparison result.

25 8. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein  
said similarity range detecting means compares image  
data of two adjacent frames in the moving image data,

and detects the similarity range based on the comparison result.

9. An image processing apparatus comprising:  
5       input means for inputting a data train including moving image data composed of a plurality of frames;  
          designating means for designating an arbitrary frame among said moving image data;  
          similarity detecting means for detecting a  
10      similarity between the image data of two adjacent frames in said moving image data;  
          definition detecting means for detecting definitions of a plurality of frames in said moving image data; and  
15      selecting means for selecting one frame from said moving image data based on an output of said similarity detecting means and an output of said definition detecting means, and for storing the selected frame in storing means,  
20      wherein said selecting means reads out and outputs the image data of one frame which is stored in said storing means in accordance with a designating operation of said designating means.

25      10. An image processing apparatus comprising:  
          input means for inputting a data train including moving image data, definition information, and scene

change information, said moving image data being composed of a plurality of frames, said definition information indicating a definition of each frame in said moving image data, and said scene change

5 information indicating scene change of said moving image data; and

selecting means for selecting one frame in the moving image data based on the definition information and the scene change information.

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11. An image processing apparatus comprising:  
input means for inputting a data train including moving image data and frame designation information, said moving image data being composed of a plurality of frames, and said frame designation information being added to said plurality of frames and indicating a predetermined frame in said plurality of frames;

designating means for designating an arbitrary frame among the moving image data; and

20 selecting means for selecting said predetermined frame from the moving image data based on the frame designation information added to the frame which is designated by said designating means.

25 12. An apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the data train includes selecting candidate information which is added to the predetermined frame, and said

selecting means further selects the predetermined frame based on the selecting candidate information.

13. An image processing apparatus comprising:

- 5       input means for inputting a data train including moving image data, scene change information, and selecting candidate information, said moving image data being composed of a plurality of frames, said scene change information indicating scene change of said
- 10      moving image data, and said selecting candidate information being added to a predetermined frame in said moving image data;
- 15      designating means for designating an arbitrary frame among the moving image data; and
- 20      selecting means for selecting the predetermined frame from the moving image data based on a designating operation of said designating means, the scene change information, and the selecting candidate information.